

Even in the Spanish-American War, a dozen Latinos were among Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

In World War I, an Army pilot, David Cantu Barkley of Laredo, TX, of Mexican decent volunteered to penetrate German lines in France. With a comrade, he drew maps of German positions and supplies.

Barkley drowned on the return trip, but his partner survived and carried back the logistical information. Praised by General Pershing, Barkley won the Medal of Honor. Among the heroes of World War II was marine PFC Guy "Gabby" Gabaldon who won the Navy Cross for capturing more than a thousand enemy soldiers in the South Pacific during the summer of 1944.

The honor and patriotism of these brave soldiers cannot be overstated.

The story of Alejandro Ruiz, an Army private who fought in Okinawa, epitomizes their commitment to this Nation and the tragedy some of them endured.

Private Ruiz's Medal of Honor citation noted his "conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty."

... When an enemy soldier charged him his rifle jammed. Undaunted Private Ruiz whirled on his opponent and clubbed him down ...

... Leaping from one opening to another, he sent burst after burst into the pillbox, killing 12 of the enemy and completely destroying the position ...

... Private Ruiz's heroic conduct in the face of overwhelming odds, saved the lives of many of his comrades and eliminated an obstacle that long would have checked his unit's advance."

Private Ruiz wrote in a letter: "I never questioned my duty because I believe that as Americans we have a responsibility to serve our country and preserve our way of life and freedoms. All I can say is I did what I had to do."

Private Ruiz served this Nation with honor. Madam President, 14,000 Hispanic soldiers served in Korea and more than 300 died; 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam war, representing 5.5 percent of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in those years—even though, at the time, Latinos comprised only 4.5 percent of the population.

As we speak, 28,000 Latinos currently serve with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq; 561 casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan have been Hispanic casualties.

In fact, there are almost 1.5 million Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces in this country today who also served with honor.

And of the Hispanics who have served in uniform, 41 of them have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, including David Cantu Barkley and Private Ruiz.

This month we celebrate the contribution of all Latinos to the history of this Nation.

We celebrate the contribution of the many community leaders and local heroes in our neighborhoods, our cities, and towns, and in every State in America.

All across this Nation, the Latino population is growing. We are now the largest minority group in the country—contributing to the community, the economy, and the political debate.

Today, Hispanics hold 29 seats in the U.S. Congress, 2 in the Cabinet, and 1 on the Supreme Court.

We are no longer on the outside looking in. We are at the table on every major issue before Congress—every major issue before the courts.

I stand here, a United States Senator, a lawyer, a Hispanic American who took his seat on the floor of this Chamber not long ago and proudly cast my vote for Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

That was a historic moment for me, a historic moment for the Hispanic American community, one we will never forget, but I can say with some measure of confidence, I believe it is only the beginning.

This month let us celebrate not only Hispanic Heritage but let us proudly celebrate and proclaim the history of Hispanics in America going back to the Revolution, and then let us recognize the role a new generation of young Latinos will play in making this, the 21st century, another American century.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join with me in celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and their immense contributions to this Nation.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 629) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 629

Whereas, from September 15, 2010, through October 15, 2010, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the Census Bureau estimates the Hispanic population in the United States at almost 47,800,000 people, making Hispanic Americans the largest ethnic minority within the United States;

Whereas 1 in 5 United States public school students is Hispanic, and the total number of Hispanic students enrolled in public schools in the United States is expected to reach 28,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas the purchasing power of Hispanic Americans is nearly \$1,000,000,000,000, and there are more than 2,300,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting millions of employees nationwide and greatly contributing to the economic sector, especially retail trade, wholesale trade, food services, and construction;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces and have bravely fought in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas more than 28,000 Hispanics currently serve with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas 140,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in that conflict although they comprised only 4.5 percent of the United States population at the time;

Whereas, as of August 7, 2010, 561 United States military fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan have been Hispanic;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2009, there were approximately 1,332,033 Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas 41 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of government, including 1 seat on the Supreme Court, 1 seat in the Senate, 28 seats in the House of Representatives, and 2 seats in the Cabinet; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2010, through October 15, 2010;

(2) esteems the integral role of Latinos and their manifold heritage in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that appreciate the cultural contributions of Latinos to American life.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3793

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I understand that S. 3793, introduced earlier today by Senator BAUCUS, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3793) to extend expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, September 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning